

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 29, 2007. Claims 8-21, 25 and 29-34 were pending in the Application. Claims 29-34 remain pending in the Application.

In the Office Action, the following actions were taken or matters were raised:

ALLOWED CLAIMS

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to indicate that Claims 29-34 are allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of 29-34. Claims 29-34 remain unchanged. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 29-34 remain in condition for allowance.

SECTION 103 REJECTIONS

Claim 8, 9, 10-21 and 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0157896 issued to Bates (hereinafter "*Bates*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,683 issued to West (hereinafter "*West*") and Swiss Patent No. CH000690545A5 issued to Graf (hereinafter "*Graf*").


Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 8, 9, 10-21 and 25 are patentable over the cited references. However, in order to obtain issuance of subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner, Applicant cancels without prejudice or disclaimer Claims 8, 9, 10-21 and 25 and reserves the right to further prosecute the subject matter of Claims 8, 9, 10-21 and 25 in continuing applications.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) for a two (2) month extension is enclosed hereto. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$225.00 for the cost for obtaining the two month extension of time. If, however, Applicant has miscalculated the fee due with this response or overlooked the need for any other fee, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this response to Deposit Account No. 13-4900 of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C., referencing Attorney Docket No. 6650.5-1.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 28, 2007

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